

REMARKS**1. THE AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION**

The specification has been amended to correct a minor error. As the amendment to the specification is fully supported by the specification as originally filed, it does not constitute new matter. Entry thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

2. THE AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate a SEQ ID NO: in the appropriate place. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Entry thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

A marked up version of the amended claim is attached hereto as Exhibit C. For the PTO's convenience, a clean copy of the pending claims after entry of the instant amendment is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that Claims 1-21 satisfy all of the criteria for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same and passage of Claims 1-21 to issuance is therefore kindly solicited.

No fees are believed due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 and credit any overpayment, to Pennie & Edmonds U.S. Deposit Account No. 16-1150 (1803-296-999).

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A**MARKED UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH**

On page 11 please replace the paragraph beginning "SEQ ID NO.8: *pol* gene, position 4131-4207..." with the following paragraph:

SEQ ID NO.8: *pol* gene, position 4131-4207, length [77] 76 nucleotides.

EXHIBIT B
REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH

On page 11 please replace the paragraph beginning "SEQ ID NO.8: *pol* gene, position 4131-4207..." with the following paragraph:

SEQ ID NO.8: *pol* gene, position 4131-4207, length 76 nucleotides.

EXHIBIT C
MARKED VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIM

13. (Amended) Oligonucleotide, wherein it comprises 10 to 80 consecutive nucleotides from

(i) a highly conserved region of the *pol* gene of HIV represented by one of the sequences shown in SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, 9 or 10,

(ii) a corresponding region of another HI virus isolate,

(iii) a corresponding region of a consensus sequence derived from several HI virus isolates

or sequences which are complementary thereto, provided that it does not comprise the nucleotide sequence

CTACTACTCC TTGACTTTGG GGATTG (SEQ ID NO: 26)

or its complementary sequence.